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2 MAR 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel
John S. Warner

FROM: Acting Assistant Director/SI

SUBJECT: Identification of Soviet Astronauts

1. This is in response to your request of 1 March to prepare a memorandum relative to the Director's 27 February statement about Soviet astronauts to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

2. The question of whether or not Gagarin actually was the astronaut who flew Vostok I was exhaustively studied shortly after the flight and at that time OSI concluded that "the vehicle launched on 12 April did in fact contain a man and that the occupant was the astronaut Gagarin." Our review of the facts surrounding Titov and Vostok II appears to justify with high confidence the same conclusion about the second event.

3. Although we conclude that Gagarin and Titov were occupants of the Vostoks, it cannot be proved beyond all possible doubt. For the Soviets to substitute other astronauts in the flights, an elaborate operation would have been required to insure that all evidence available to Western intelligence would support the hoax. Reconsideration of the evidence fails to reveal any details which would be consistent with the substitution theory.

4. Our position on this matter has not changed since the briefing of the Senate Space Committee. For your information, we are attaching a copy of the relevant paper that we prepared last July following Gagarin's flight.

Att:

1 copy of Validity of
12 April Event

OSI/SD/

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